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effect created by the sounds, albeit somewhat untutored issuing from 4,000 little throats in such well-known compositions as the "Old Hundredth" and the "Hallelujah," is one which has already struck with wonder many distinguished visitors whom curiosity has led to this annual festival; and we are now glad to find, for the sake of musical progress, that some innovation is likely to be made upon the time-honoured selection usually performed. Mendelssohn's sublime *Chorale*, "Sleepers wake," is now substituted for the 113th Psalm, "Ye saints and servants of the Lord;" and we see no reason why music especially written for this occasion should not replace some, which good as it is of its kind, may be said, without irreverence to any of the old church writers, to have had its day. We have men now living who *can* write—the respected organist of the cathedral himself, for example—and how could their talent be better employed than in showing that Dr. William Boyce and Dr. Crotch have no right to hold an exclusive and perpetual patent in "Te Deums" and "Jubilate?"

#### MISS MACIRONE'S SOIRÉE MUSICALE.

THE concert of this artist—already well known as a sterling *pianiste* and composer, not only of some graceful part-music, but of several works of a more elaborate character—took place on the 7th ult., at the Hanover Square Rooms. Miss Macirone's performance throughout the evening was characterised by the most musicianlike feeling, and a fluency of execution which made every phrase speak to her audience. Amongst her own compositions, an exceedingly clever Sonata in F, for pianoforte and violin, was performed for the first time by the composer and Herr Joachim; and several choral works, which were most effectively sung by Miss J. Wells, Miss Eyles, Mr. Benson, and Mr. Lawler. Some of these are really beautiful, and will no doubt become general favorites. We must particularly mention one to Scott's words, "The sun shines fair on Carlisle's wall," which has a delicious flavour of the old part-writing, and is moreover one easily approached by amateurs. A most captivating "Savoyard's song," also the composition of Miss Macirone, sung to perfection by Miss Sabilla Novello, although stated in the programme to be in manuscript, will not we think be long allowed to remain so.

#### MADAME PUZZI'S CONCERT.

THIS morning concert, always one of the most popular of the season, took place at the Hanover Square Rooms, on the 30th of May, before a numerous audience. It would be impossible to enumerate one half the compositions which formed the programme of a performance thoroughly Italian in character, and therefore contrasting well with the many classical concerts which are now rather the rule than the exception. Madame Puzzi had secured the services of many of the best Italian singers, amongst whom may be named Signori Giuglini, Gardoni, Frizzi, Delle Sedie, and Gassier. Madame Parepa, Miss Banks, Mdlle. Enequist, Mdlle. Louise Liebhart, and Miss Lascelles also contributed several vocal compositions; and pianoforte solos were performed by Signor Andreoli and M. Ascher.

#### MR. WALTER MACFARREN'S PIANOFORTE RECITALS.

THE three Pianoforte performances of this accomplished professor have fully maintained his reputation as an exponent of the highest classical music; and we have pleasure in recording our satisfaction at the result, not only on Mr. Macfarren's account, but as a wholesome protest against that anti-national feeling which is too apt to pass over English worth, and fall into raptures over foreign mediocrity. The programmes at each of the concerts have been composed of the most solid materials; Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Mendelssohn, &c., furnishing the works of the highest pretension; and the lighter

compositions of Chopin, Heller, Potter, and the concert-giver himself, being judiciously placed as a contrast. At the last concert on the 18th ult., a new sonata, by Mr. Walter Macfarren, for pianoforte and violin, was excellently performed by the composer and M. Sainton. This work produced a marked effect. It is well written for both instruments, and gives undoubted proof of its author having modelled his style upon that of the best writers of this solid form of composition.

#### ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

THE combined performance in aid of the funds of this national institution took place on the 24th ult., at Her Majesty's Theatre. A very excellent programme was given, including selections from Nicolai's opera "Falstaff," "Le Nozze di Figaro," and "La Sonnambula," in which most of the leading Italian vocalists belonging to Her Majesty's Theatre took part. One portion of the concert was entirely entrusted to the pupils of the Academy; and in this the clever pianist, Miss Agnes Zimmermann, played the Choral Fantasia and the vocalists were Misses Edith Wynne, Armytage, Sophia Neighbour, and Emily Pitt, all of whom acquitted themselves to the utmost satisfaction of a discriminating audience.

#### Brief Summary of Country News.

**DUNDEE.**—The last concert for the season of the Philharmonic Society was given in the Corn Exchange, on Tuesday, the 14th ult. Several movements from some of the great Symphonies were well executed by the band of the society. The solos and choruses were all well sung, and the concert was altogether most successful.

**FERRYHILL.**—A new organ was opened in Ferryhill Church, on Sunday, May 22nd, built by Mr. R. Postill, of York.

**HENLEY-ON-THAMES.**—The second anniversary of the Reading and Henley Church Choral Association was held at Henley, on Tuesday, May 31st. At the Morning Service the Lord Bishop of Oxford preached the sermon; and the singing of the united choirs, which numbered about 315, was such as to call forth, at a subsequent period of the day, words of hearty approval, and their efficiency reflects great credit on the Choir-master, Mr. Strickland. In the afternoon there was full choral service, which was still more perfect than that of the morning. The service was intoned by the Coadjutor Bishop of Edinburgh. Mr. Pearson, the organist of Henley Church, presided most efficiently at the organ.

**PORTLAND.**—A concert, under the direction of Mr. Alcock, took place at the School-room, Fortune's Well, on Tuesday, the 21st ult. Mrs. J. O. Andrews, Mr. Alcock, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Acot were the soloists. The choir sang several part-songs, choruses, &c., among which were three new part-songs by Hatton, viz., "The Belfry Tower," "Come, celebrate the May," and "England;" Macfarren's "Adieu, love, adieu," and several others, all of which were very successful. Mr. Moffatt presided at the pianoforte.

**READING.**—The second and concluding "open night" of the Philharmonic Society took place on the 2nd ult., when Haydn's Oratorio the *Creation* was given. The band was strengthened by several professional players; and in every respect the performance reflected the highest credit upon the society. Of the principal vocalists we can speak most favourably, especially of Miss Binfield, who sang the airs "The marvellous work," and "On mighty pens," extremely well, and Madame Goodhind, who created a genuine effect in "With verdure clad." Praise must also be awarded to Mr. Benford, Mr. H. B. Blandy, Mr. Brain, Dr. Guinness, Mr. Robert Bradley, and the Rev. — Shuttleworth, who sang all the solos allotted to them in an exceedingly creditable manner. This society, which numbers amongst its members some